

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 11, 2001, due to an illness I was unable to travel to Washington and was therefore unable to cast votes on rollcall Nos. 483 through 485. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: "yea" on rollcall No. 483; "yea" on rollcall No. 484; "yea" on rollcall No. 485.

I ask unanimous consent that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect my intended votes. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I ask that record reflect that I am a cosponsor and strong supporter of H.R. 10, the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 483, 484 and 485. I was in the hospital with my son.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three.

TRIBUTE TO HIGHLAWN
ELEMENTARY**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Highlawn Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Highlawn Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Highlawn Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Highlawn Elementary.

KEEPING THE SOCIAL SECURITY
PROMISE INITIATIVE**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of House Concurrent Resolution 282, Keeping the Social Security Promise Initiative.

I support this resolution because I believe that Congress needs to pass a Social Security reform plan that protects the current program. That means I will support reform plans that protect Social Security's guaranteed lifetime benefits, maintain its yearly COLAs, strengthen its important anti-poverty role and improve its protections for low-income earners, minorities and women.

This resolution is very timely. Yesterday, the President's self-appointed Commission to Strengthen Social Security released its final report on Social Security reform. It recommended three plans all of which reduce Social Security benefits in order to divert money to create individual accounts.

Today's Resolution puts this Congress on record as rejecting the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security recommendations—which include benefit reductions—and hopefully provides the Congress with starting point for reform.

If President Bush and the House Majority are serious about reforming Social Security, they should sit down and engage in an honest debate with representative of all parties to arrive at an outcome that makes the current Social Security system solvent for generations to come while not cutting Social Security benefits.

As Congress acts on Social Security reform, I urge Republicans to keep their "Social Security Promise" by protecting Americans' Social Security benefits for current and future retirees.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak out of order on Rollcall Nos. 483, 484, and 485, which occurred yesterday on December 11, 2001. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond my control I was unable to be here to vote on the following bills. I would like to take this opportunity to record for the record that I would have voted yes on:

H.R. 10, the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001 which will provide benefits to railroad employees and their beneficiaries;

H.R. 3282, honoring former Senator Mike Mansfield by designating a Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in his honor; and

H. Con. Res 281, honoring the great sacrifice of Johnny Michael Spann, the first American killed in combat in the war against terrorism.

SIEMENS WESTINGHOUSE SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Shira Billet and Dora Sosnowik, two seniors from Stella K. Abraham High School for Girls in the Fourth Congressional district of New York.

These two teens have accomplished an amazing feat. On December 4, they were awarded the top team prize of \$100,000 in the Siemens Westinghouse Science and Technology Competitions. Their ingenious project was the development of a Viscometer to measure the consistency of ultra-thin lubricants. Their achievement is bound to affect the fields of micro-electronics and medical therapy, specifically in the treatment of arthritis patients.

The Westinghouse Competition is administered by The College Board and funded by the Siemens Foundation. It recognizes achievement and invention in the fields of science and technology, and allows high school students to receive national recognition for their research projects. Awards are given to individual and team projects in scholarship amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

I admire Shira and Dora for many reasons, the first of which is their ability to research, develop and apply such a spectacular invention at the ages of 16 and 17. The two girls have shown high levels of intelligence balanced with concern and dedication to the betterment of their community. Their participation in the Westinghouse research program was just a small part of their busy schedule. Both Orthodox Jews who observe the Saturday Sabbath, Shira and Dora maintain a packed academic and extra-curricular schedule. Attendance at the Abraham School is from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., where emphasis is placed on a combination of academic and religious studies. The girls are also co-editors of the school yearbook.

The research program at the Abraham School is relatively new, created just two years ago. Shira and Dora were advised by their chemistry teacher, Rebecca Isseroff, and supervised by Professor Miriam Rafailovich, director of the Garcia Center for Polymers at Engineered Interfaces at SUNY Stony Brook.

I know this prestigious honor is a precursor of things to come. Long Island can expect great things from Shira Billet and Dora Sosnowik. I congratulate and thank them for what they have done and will continue to do for our community.

TRIBUTE CONNER STREET
ELEMENTARY**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Conner Street Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Conner Street Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Conner Street Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Conner Street Elementary.

AMEND TITLE 49 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE SO AIRPORT SCREENING PERSONNEL CAN BE U.S. CITIZENS OR NATIONALS

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to amend Title 49 of the United States Code so that the airport security screening personnel referred to in Section 44935 of that Title can be U.S. citizens or nationals.

American Samoa is the only place in the United States in which persons born of non-U.S. citizen parents acquire the political status of U.S. national, as opposed to that of U.S. citizen. According to the most recent data available, only 5.7 percent of American Samoa's population are U.S. citizens, with the vast majority being U.S. nationals.

Enactment of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act into law last month added a requirement that all security screening personnel at airports be U.S. citizens. While I understand and strongly support Congressional intent to improve the quality of the security screening of baggage being put aboard commercial aircraft, I do believe the issue of U.S. nationals should be considered as part of the recent change.

The U.S. nationals from American Samoa have a 100-year history of service to the United States. Just like citizens, these Americans owe their allegiance to the United States and have repeatedly demonstrated their allegiance in important ways. They are not foreign nationals, yet because of this one criterion placed on the hiring of security screening personnel, they will be treated as foreigners if this new requirement added in the Aviation and Transportation Security Act is not amended.

With such a small number of U.S. citizens available in the American Samoa work force, the requirement in the Aviation and Transportation Security Act that security screening personnel be U.S. citizens also greatly reduces the pool of prospective employees. As a practical matter, this will be to the detriment of airline security on all flights within the region, thereby reducing, rather than increasing, security of the traveling public.

Mr. Speaker, I see this amendment as a technical change to the law, and look forward to prompt passage so that security at the airport in American Samoa will remain strong.

HOMELESS VETERANS COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2716, the

Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act. Homelessness remains a prevalent problem among veterans, with roughly one-third of the total homeless population consisting of veterans. With this legislation, we will take a needed step in addressing this problem as we are all aware that more needs to be done to help these men and women get back on their feet.

It is a familiar principle among veterans in our Armed Forces that we do not leave our wounded behind. Homeless veterans are our wounded, and we are leaving them behind. The VA has reported there were about 345,000 homeless vets in our country in 1999, and there will yet be even more homeless veterans as we experience this economic downturn.

This bill sets a national goal to end homelessness among veterans within 10 years. Who is opposed to that? The bill provides funding, authorizes 2000 additional Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 low-income housing vouchers over four years for homeless veterans in need of permanent housing and who are enrolled in health care provided by the Veterans Affairs Department. The bill contains funding increases for a number of existing veterans homeless programs. It will establish a demonstration program to provide information, including referral and counseling services, to incarcerated veterans and veterans in long-term institutional confinement to assist in their reintegration into their communities.

As we continue to address the needs of our Nation's veterans we should heed the words of President Lincoln who called on all Americans "to care for him who shall have borne the battle." I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

**TRIBUTE TO CONFIDENCE
ELEMENTARY**

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mrs. CAPITO. Mrs. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Confidence Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Confidence Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Confidence Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Confidence Elementary.

**BILL OF RIGHTS CANNOT BE THE
NEXT VICTIM OF TERRORISM**

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the terrorist attacks on September 11 struck fear in the heart of every American. Today, we continue to fight a war against terrorism on two fronts—in the mountains of Afghanistan and on the main streets of the United States. The first is a more traditional war against soldiers and war machinery; the second, a war against domestic terrorism.

Within days of the attacks, Congress passed a Homeland Security Bill that included the so-called "Patriot Act." The Patriot Act allows the government to increase its use of wiretaps and surveillance, and enhances its ability to trace e-mail and Internet usage. I voted against the Patriot Act because it intrudes unnecessarily on our civil liberties. We had adequate police and intelligence systems available to prevent 9/11, but they were not used effectively. The inadequate use of these resources is no reason to trample our freedoms.

The Bill of Rights, civil rights and civil liberties must not be the "other victim" of terrorism. As the domestic war against terrorism continues, my concern is that "increased police power" will encroach on our liberties.

In the past month, Attorney General John Ashcroft issued rules to allow the FBI to eavesdrop on communications between attorneys and their clients who are suspected terrorists, ordered prosecutors to interview over 5,000 young, mostly Middle Eastern men in the United States, and supported a system of secret military tribunals that could be used to try alleged accomplices in the September 11 attacks.

Members of Congress and eight former high-ranking FBI officials have questioned the effectiveness of Attorney General Ashcroft's plan to fight terrorism. The tactics that he is proposing are not new. By interviewing over 5,000 mostly Middle Eastern men to gather information about terrorists, he is merely recycling the same "preventive" intelligence-gathering techniques that were rejected in the late 1970s because they did not prevent terrorism and in fact, led to abuses of civil liberties.

In the 1950's and 1960's, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover used "Red Squads" to collect massive amounts of "preventive" intelligence to deter terrorist attacks. The "Squads" were criticized for abusing civil liberties and they were seldom effective. Because the majority of preventive intelligence investigations did not lead to criminal cases, most terrorist activities went unsolved and most of the terrorists were not apprehended. There is no reason to return to a system that didn't work and has a track record of failure and abuse.

Attorney General Ashcroft wants terrorist suspects to be tried by secret military tribunals. Conducting the tribunals in secret with the possibility of imposing capital punishment by a mere two-thirds vote, is an infringement of our civil liberties. It also undermines our system of checks and balances. Our Democracy retains its integrity in large part because no single branch of government overwhelms another. The military tribunals circumvent the